Ex officio membership of local boards, etc., to Members of the Legislative Council.

* 37 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the advisability of making all Members of the Legislative Council ex officio members of the local boards and municipalities within the local limits of which they reside ?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" The answer is that the matter has not been considered by the Government. The date of the answer is 20th July 1925. In view of a resolution on the same subject I want to know whether the matter has since been considered."

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" There has been no change of opinion on the part of the Government. "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" How does the hon. Member gather that this answer is dated 20th July 1925 ? "

Privilege of elected president to Anantapur municipality.

* 38 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Anantapur people have requested the Government for the privilege of electing their own municipal chairman ;

(*b*) whether the municipal council also has passed a resolution to the same effect ;

(*c*) when the term of the present nominated chairman expires ; and

(*d*) whether there is no competent person among the present councillors who can discharge the duties of the chairman ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*c*) The term expired on 24th June 1925.

(*d*) The Government have no information of such a person.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Sir, have the Government since nominated a chairman to the municipal council ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Yes."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Are the Government aware that 11 out of the 13 members were against the appointment of the chairman ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" The Government have no information. "

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" Did the Government enquire whether any councillor among the sitting members was capable of discharging the functions of the chairman ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, the Government were informed that there was no one on the council suitable for appointment as chairman."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the council called for the correspondence to be placed on the table as to the incompetency of the sitting councillors ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I should like to know to what clause the supplementary question relates."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" Clause (*d*)."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Is there not a B.A., B.L., also among the councillors ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" There may be a B.A., B.L. But unfortunately, the information they had was that there was none."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Was it considered that the time had not come for conferring this privilege on the municipality ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It was considered that it was not time that the privilege of electing its own chairman should be conferred on the municipal council."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" Who were the authorities that were consulted in the matter ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" Sir, the Collector of the district was consulted."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" May I know whether there was no member of the Justice Party in the Anantapur municipality . . . ."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" The President of the District Board is of the Justice Party."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know for information whether the Collector recommended at any time the office of chairman to be thrown open for election ?

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" No."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" What was it that made the Government think that the municipality was not ripe enough to have the power of electing its own chairman ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" I did not say that the municipality was not ripe enough, but I said it was considered that it was not time that the Government should think of conferring this power on the municipality."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know why the Government thought like that ? Is the municipality a new one or a young one or has the administration not been good ? "

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Is not one of the councillors the president of the taluk board belonging to the Justice Party ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I think we have sufficiently discussed this question."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether thirteen members of the Council wanted to pass a resolution expressing dissatisfaction and whether that resolution was disallowed by the chairman and whether the matter is still pending with the Government ? "

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—" It is asking for further information. I should like to have notice."